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Outdoor is the thing
Seeing value in small game hunting.
See page 2 and 3.

A reporter's tale
New reporter Nick Bernard tells his tale.
Story on page 3.

Rudolph the red nosed cow, as seen on the top of the Kawartha Dairy, located on Highway 35 in Minden./DARREN LUM Staff

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Haliburton's other hunting seasons

STEVE GALEA

Outdoors

Most seasonal and full-time residents of Haliburton County have a good sense of when big game hunting seasons for moose, deer, and bear are on. The obvious clue is a sudden increase in the amount of hunter orange seen throughout the County. This is often accompanied by the sound of high-powered rifle shots echoing through the hills and rumours of hunt camp success.

Once those seasons end though, many non-hunters are surprised to occasionally run into individuals or small groups, also clad in hunter orange. These hunters, most often carrying shotguns or .22s, are taking advantage of Haliburton's small game seasons, which extend from September into the New Year – and, for some species, beyond.

A lot of work for a little return

Haliburton isn't what most people would call a small game Mecca. Even those who love hunting here – and I am one – would concede that, if you really wanted good grouse or varying hare hunting, you'd be better off traveling to northern Ontario where these animals are far more prevalent.

Yet, if a hunter puts in time and focuses on finding pockets of prime habitat for the game pursued, there are enough opportunities near home to keep a person interested. And, as with any other wildlife, there are years when hunters will be pleasantly surprised by better-



Small game are found in areas that demand hunters to walk a lot, looking off the beaten path where the vegetation is thick./ Photo submitted by Steve Galea

than-average populations. This year, in my estimation, is one of those.

Putting in the time means covering a lot of ground, especially when population densities are low. The serious small game hunter wears out boot leather walking off the beaten trail in thick,

inhospitable cover. For these are the places that offer the shelter and foods needed by the animals we seek. A good dog that knows how to point, flush or chase the game you are after, enhances success and the experience, but hunters can certainly do well without one.

The Holy Trinity

In the late season here, most small game hunters pursue either ruffed grouse, varying hare or eastern gray squirrel.

Interestingly, eastern gray squirrels,

see page 3

CountyLife

The following inserts are being distributed with County Life this week:

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Small game hunting offers challenge, but there is reward in getting outside

from page 2

which seem to be more numerous in Haliburton these days, are overlooked by many hunters in Ontario. Perhaps that's because we see too many of them in our parks and at our bird feeders. Rest assured, the ones living in the hardwoods do not behave the same as those. In fact, they are the most popular small game species in the US, due to their edibility and the challenge they provide.

Generally, if you find ruffed grouse, varying hare (aka snowshoe hare) won't be too far off. Eastern gray squirrels, tend to be more attracted to hardwoods, especially if agriculture and mast producing trees like oak are nearby.

Hide and seek

The thing each of these animals has in common is that they are constantly evading any predator that hunts from the ground or air. As such, they have developed successful survival traits, such as having lots of offspring and spending much of their time in protective cover, such as under a canopy of hawthorns, junipers, or raspberry canes where food

is available or nearby, and predators have a difficult time getting at them. Certainly, they will come out in the open to feed or collect grit for their gizzards in the case of grouse, but if you want to find them more consistently a hunter has to think in terms of food and cover. Once you find that location, it's time to get in that cover, or at least send a dog in find out if anyone is home. The term we commonly use is brush busting.

Volumes have been written about small game hunting, but it all boils down to finding game, flushing it, and shooting quickly and accurately. It is not as easy as it sounds. Flushes are common, shots less so.

In any case, that's what those late season hunters in the bright orange suits are trying to do. The rewards are not always commensurate with the effort, but on occasion, great memories are made, and good meals of excellent wild game are brought home.

At the very least, a late season upland hunt causes us to spend late autumn or early winter days in the great outdoors. And that, I would argue, is a reward unto itself.

Local sexual health clinics temporarily on hold due

The local health unit is putting a pause on offering sexual health clinics in the region due to its COVID-19 response.

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit (HKPRDU) is putting its Sexual Health clinics on hold for the time being so that nurses and other staff can be redeployed to pandemic response. The decision comes as COVID-19 cases are on the rise in the region.

Clients who had an appoint-

ment booked this month at a sexual health clinic in Haliburton County, Northumberland County and the City of Kawartha Lakes are being contacted directly to make alternate arrangements.

The health unit encourages anyone with concerns relating to their sexual health to contact their primary care provider or attend a walk-in clinic.

Submitted by HKDPRDU

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Here there, and back again

NICK BERNARD

County Life Staff

Hi, I'm Nick – reporter for the *Haliburton Echo* and *Minden Times*.

That's how almost all of my conversations have started over the past few months. That first half is easy enough to get around – it's a standard greeting followed by my name. It's the second half, where I say that I'm an actual reporter for a real-life newspaper, that still absolutely blows my mind every time it passes through my brain and pops out of my mouth.

See, 18 months ago, I was living in Hamilton. I'd just moved out of a rickety old house near Tim Hortons Field to a newly renovated apartment in a soon-to-be-completely-gentrified part of town. I figured at the time I'd veg out there for a year before breaking into podcasting or voice acting or something, all the while keeping my funky little radio job where I was writing ad copy for hundreds of clients.

That Monday, less than 24 hours after moving the furniture, I went to work, only to be told to turn around and go home: I'd be working from my new apartment full-time for the next few weeks while we tackled this irritating virus that shares its name with a beer brand. If all went well, I'd be back in the office by June. That was on March 20, 2020. By April 3rd, I was unemployed.

And just like that, my new apartment had transformed into one part sanctuary, one part prison – and it stayed that way



Nick Bernard loves to tell stories. He has joined the *Haliburton County Echo*, *Minden Times*, and *County Life* as a reporter/photographer.
/DARREN LUM Staff

random crashing of a million tumbling coins, but the chance to start anew – with the kind of job that fits my character better than any other – was too good to pass up.

I love Haliburton County. I may be a city person, yes, but I love Haliburton County. It's been part of my life since I was a little kid whipping around Gull Lake in a tube behind my dad's boat. The best summers of my life have been spent at Big Hawk Lake, where I made lifelong friendships at Camp Kawabi. I've even graced the Canoe FM airwaves, being the place where my eight-year cross-country radio career began.

I even owe my life to local healthcare workers, who, just this past New Years Eve, managed to catch my exploding appendix before it turned me into a firework. What a way to start 2021, hey?

The Highlands are more to me than a vacation spot away from the city, more than a place for me to park myself away from noise and congestion in weekend-sized chunks.

I feel this place in my bones, and to find myself gravitating back here is no surprise. There exists the very real sense that my work here comes from a place of unfulfillable gratitude. I've seen how relentlessly giving this community can be, and I love this place for it.

I also plainly see the broad challenges it faces, and the gaps that have left innocent lives hanging in the balance.

It's my hope that my work here will put a spotlight on what's changed, what needs to change, and the ever-careful steps we take together towards an uncertain future.

If you read my articles and actually learn something, then this will all have been worth it.

You can find me around town with my phone in my hand, probably playing Pokémon GO – Team Valor for life.

Also, if anyone has an extra spot at a D&D (Dungeons & Dragons) table, I have a half-elf wizard that hasn't rolled any dice for a couple of years. I can bring veggie snacks and a boatload of meaningless Star Trek trivia.

for 18 months. Eighteen months of something that felt like freefall.

Chaos theory is the idea that one simple change within a context can alter the entire outcome of a certain situation, and that the various permutations in that

context are predictable only to a certain point. Think of a hand throwing a fistful of coins in the air: You could predict the direction of the first few coins that start to tumble, but after that it's up to the coins. This has been what the experience of the pandemic has felt like. The virus is the hand, and I am one of the coins.

Now, to be completely transparent with you: The idea to move up to Haliburton was not my own. My parents live up here, and I live with them now. From there, I had a vague plan for how to make money and pick my life back up from the shambling ruins they had turned into.

And along came the *Haliburton County Echo* and *Minden Times*.

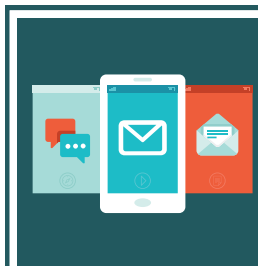
I don't know if it was fate, or just the

The Rotary Club of Haliburton

is honoured to donate 10 polio vaccines on behalf of every volunteer who served at local vaccination clinics this year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Rotary  



Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

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David and Patricia Morton donate \$50,000 to YWCA HERS

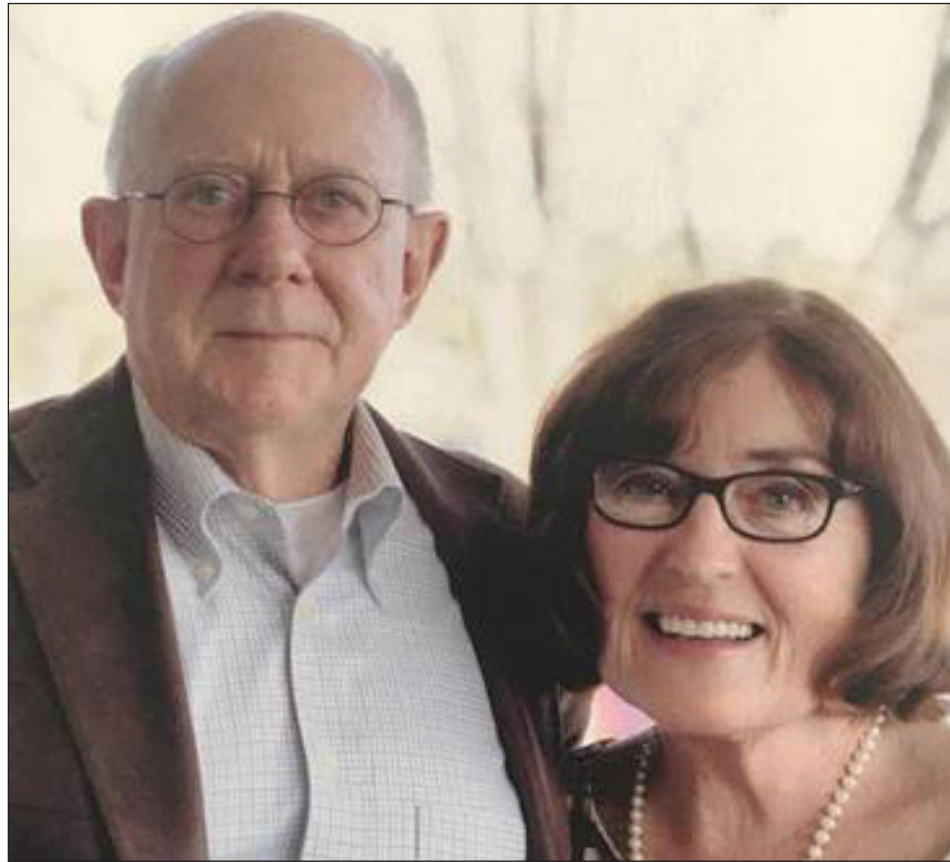
For the second year in a row, a Peterborough-based couple have donated \$50,000 to support women and children experiencing gender-based violence in Haliburton County.

Philanthropists David and Patricia Morton, through The Morton Family Foundation, made the donation this year to the YWCA Haliburton Emergency Rural SafeSpace (HERS). YWCA HERS provides safe and supportive temporary accommodations for women, with and without children, who are fleeing abuse in Haliburton County. The service, designed to be available on an as-needed basis in order to help reduce costs, offers space that is staffed 24 hours for safety for up to two families at a time so that women can move away from the abusive situation in their home, without leaving their support systems, jobs and schools, friends and family behind.

Last year the Mortons supported the YWCA Women's Centre of Haliburton County Outreach Services with a \$50,000 donation.

"We are deeply moved by Patricia and David's positive impact in the Haliburton County community," Kim Dolan, executive director of YWCA Peterborough Haliburton said. "The Morton's compassion for others is helping to ensure that women and children have ongoing access to our emergency SafeSpace, nutritious food, basic necessities, and 24-hour support when home is the most dangerous place to be."

According to a Dec. 9 press release from the YWCA, the COVID-19 cri-



Through The Morton Family Foundation, David and Patricia Morton have donated \$50,000 to the YWCA Haliburton Emergency Rural SafeSpace. HERS provides safe and supportive temporary accommodations for women, with and without children, who are fleeing abuse in Haliburton County./Photo submitted by YWCA Peterborough Haliburton

sis has created a toxic combination of increased stress, isolation and job losses that is leading to a dramatic rise in violence. "This is especially true for rural women, whose physical distance from

police services and lack of resources to assist in accessing safety and support greatly increases their vulnerability to gender-based violence," reads the press release. "HERS has been fully occupied

since January 2021 and rural women in Haliburton County have reported abuse that is far more serious and complex throughout the pandemic. Like women's organizations across the province, the YWCA is facing heightened demand and increasing costs."

"We are so happy to give this donation to such a worthy cause," Patricia Morton on behalf of The Morton Family Foundation said. "We have been greatly inspired by the expertise and tremendous dedication which the YW's Haliburton staff bring to their work, both in providing women with safety and security to plan how to build better lives for themselves and their children, and in providing expert professional support services to assist their healing from trauma."

"As a man I am just appalled and disgusted by violence against women and children," Morton said. "I am grateful at least to have this opportunity to extend a helping hand to the brave women who, with the wonderful support of our YWCA, are striving hard to empower themselves."

For more information on supporting YWCA services, visit ywcahaliburton.org. Donations made before Dec. 31 will be doubled during the YWCA's holiday season matching gift campaign.

If you, or someone you know, need support please contact the YWCA's 24-hour support and crisis line toll free at 1-800-461-7656, by phone at 705-286-6442 or by text at 705-854-1591.

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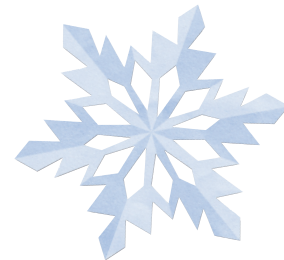


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Editorial

Give this season to ensure there is magic for everyone

AHH, THE HOLIDAYS. If you're a Millennial (born between 1981 - 1996), you probably have some clear memories of the magic at Christmas time. Technically, Millennials are defined as a generation who actively and consciously remembers the dawn of the internet. Believe it or not, we had a chapter where we didn't wholeheartedly rely on receiving all the accessible information in the world faster than the blink of an eye. That was a fun time.



EMILY STONEHOUSE
Special to County Life

What a time to be alive.

I have a vivid memory of walking down the main street of Haliburton in December, and there were those silver bells and angels with fuzzy tinsel adorning the light poles. Head Lake had just frozen over, and fat snowflakes fell from heavy grey clouds that hung low across the horizon. This was a big day. This was the day the Sears Wishbook came out, and my mom was walking me down the street to pick it up. We gingerly climbed the stairs to the Sears building, the one that the Kozy Korner now resides in, heard the jingle of the doorbell as the wind swept us in, and we participated in the well-known Canadian shuffle dance of absent-mindedly kicking off excess snow onto the indoor mats.

And there it was. The Sears Wishbook in all its glory. We only got one every year, and my brother and I

would spend days, hours, weeks, pouring over each and every thing listed in that Wishbook. Of course, the most well-thumbed section pages were those of the toy section, followed closely by the Christmas décor chapter. Once we had the pages memorized, we would dog-ear and day-dream each day of the advent calendar towards Christmas Eve.

It's one of my fondest memories.

Sometimes, the Haliburton Highlands Museum Instagram account posts photos of the way things were. I always catch myself looking at those photos and thinking, "Wow, we sure have changed a lot ..."

I am sure, one day soon, the museum will post a photo of the main street in Haliburton from the 1990's, and we will all say, "Wow, we sure have changed a lot ..."

A time before the internet, when it truly felt like the world was just moving ... slower. The Haliburton Highlands does the holiday season well. Every Santa Claus Parade, every food-drive, every decoration, every twinkling light is done with the humble heart that lives at the core of a small town. Even as an adult, and now watching my own children's eyes light up with the first fat fluffy snowflakes, I can see that our community is unlike any other.

Something we don't always see living in a rural community is what poverty can look like. In the cities, it's actively visible. Sometimes right in front of you. But in a small town, you never know what life looks like behind closed doors. According to the City of Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton County Poverty

Reduction Roundtable, "17.2 per cent (3,050) of residents in private households are considered low-income. This includes 22.9 per cent (480) of children 0 to 17 years-old, 18.5 per cent (1,835) of adults 18 to 64 and 12.8 per cent (740) of adults 65 years and older."

Just because it's not right in front of us, it doesn't mean it's not there. There should be magic this time of year for everyone. If you're looking to give a little joy this season, use that new-found Millennial knowledge of using the internet to look up food drives, toy drives, helping the Minden Community Food Bank, donating to Places for People, contributing to the YWCA Women's Centre of Haliburton County, or even a reverse advent calendar where you collect clothing or food from your own home throughout the month of December, and then donate to those in need. There are endless options, eligible charities, and opportunities for you to donate your money, time, or heart into. Did you know that when you help someone or engage in a random act of kindness, your brain releases dopamine into your body, which is a feel-good brain chemical that will *literally* make you feel warm and fuzzy all over.

There's magic in the Haliburton Highlands over the holidays, and it's not just from the Sears Wishbook anymore. Now, it's from a community coming together to support one another, share in the celebrations, and add a little sparkle and shine to everyone's holiday season.

Top 10 reasons mistletoe is no longer a thing

THERE WAS a time when mistletoe was a thing at Christmas office parties and other places where sound judgment was not practiced. Back then people were obliged to kiss each other when they found themselves under a sprig hanging from the ceiling. This might be why ceiling fans were invented.



STEVE GALEA
 Humour Columnist

Luckily, mistletoe use is now a thing of the past. There are many reasons for this, but here are the top 10 I can think of.

1. Mask wearing got popular.
2. Too many people kissing in the produce section after misidentifying broccoli.
3. Your spouse.
4. Your handlebar moustache.
5. The French took the kissing part a little too far.
6. It was all downhill after the fist bump was introduced.
7. The invention of the friendzone.
8. Garlic festivals.
9. New COVID restrictions insist you blow a kiss from greater than six feet.
10. That one creepy guy who carried some with him everywhere he went.

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 Display our new favourites and brag on the snow
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 Machines in all sizes to suit ma or pa
 And even some minis just right for the kids
 So they can do doughnuts, safe speeds and
 small skids

On lakes, their own farm fields, on rail trails,
 past bush
 It's not hard for sledders through most drifts to push
 Or up-down a hill where few footprints will dare
 Since riders go out in the coldest of air

But some snowmobilers add picturesque job
 To find on the trail special breaks from the mob
 And pause with a pal, let the others buzz by
 To stop for a minute, hear winter birds cry
 Those places where Moose Tracks are not an
 ice cream

But prints in a snow pink and soft as a dream
 When slow-dropping flakes make a sound
 on a branch

Collect on a nose like a small avalanche
 We pause beneath cliff, give the engine short break:
 A waterfall solid, so blue it seems fake

Then suddenly small tree starts left-right to move
 A beaver is hoping his lunch will improve
 We once saw a wolf all alone far away
 Since peering long distance seems easy as day
 It's moments like these where I tip my cold toque
 To groomers, repair folk, nice helpers like Luke
 Supporting our safety: respect must prevail
 All rules are important, please stay on the trail
 And though we ride boldly with mate or a crowd
 We're big-hearted too, thanking nature out loud

Deborah J Reed



CFI includes local forester with elite group

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Special to *County Life*

Haliburton Forest's own Thomas McCay has joined the top 10 list of forestry professionals under the age of 40. This list is developed by the Canadian Forest Industries (CFI), and highlights the "next generation" of forestry leaders. In an industry that struggles with many professionals reaching retirement age, the CFI makes an effort to celebrate the successes of young staff in the sector across Canada. "The result," states the CFI website, "is a list of high-performing professionals who are poised to lead the industry."

Chief forester of Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve, McCay, was the first on the list. At 32 years of age, McCay has completed a Master's of forest conservation at the University of Toronto. He went on to work as a horse logging contractor and then a cut-skid contractor while working to become a registered professional forester, which he succeeded in earning five years ago.

Now, in his role as chief forester at Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve, McCay played a key role in the turnaround of Haliburton Forest, and is responsible for the sustainable management of the 100,000 acre property. According to the CFI website, McCay is also "instrumental in the creation of a private land consulting practice called Stewardship Services, the formation of the Haliburton Forest Research Institute,

the start-up of hardwood sawmill Almaguin Forest, the recent acquisition of Huntsville Forest Products, and more ..."

When asked why he was initially drawn to the forestry world, McCay knew right away.

"I love being outdoors," he said, "I like the practical challenges of the job, I like the diversity of work and skills, and I'm a true believer in forest products as the best renewable resource we have available to us."

McCay moved up to the Haliburton Highlands in 2014, and is now settled into the community with his wife, Kyrie, and their two kids.

"I love this region, I love the land, and I love working with the forestry team at Haliburton Forest," he said.

McCay credits much of his success to his team, going on to say that working with like-minded individuals inspires him to keep learning.

"It's one of the biggest and most creative teams in the region," McCay said. "I am very proud of them."

As far as next steps for his growth within Haliburton Forest, McCay is eager to continue to grow.

"We want to have an impact," McCay said. "As a company, we want to be leaders in private sustainable forestry, be at the cutting edge of how to practice the best hardwood forestry we could manage."

You can follow the work of him and fellow foresters by checking out www.haliburtonforest.com.



Thomas McCay and his son, Fletcher explore the woods around Haliburton Forest. McCay has recently been identified as one of the top 10 under 40 in the forestry world by Canadian Forest Industries. Submitted by Thomas McCay

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Garland of stars strung up across Sky,
Moon glow stroking Snow, as I meander down from
the hilltop road,
towards the village twinkling below,
pausing at the border between forest and road,
to peer up at the pines, entering this shrine of silence
and peace,
listening to the stillness that surrounds me,
the tinsel of stars, glistening above me, spraying its
light onto the tops of trees,
as Air pricks my cheeks, tears sprouting in my eyes
from the cold.
A forest of memories springing up inside me,
of Christmas Eves when I was small as the saplings
that fringe the road,
and he towered over me as he gripped my
mittened hand,
leading us through the streets,
away from the white bungalow and evergreens
swathed in Snow,
the crunch of our steps, the bloom of our Breath,
as we paused in front of houses we didn't know,
to admire the lights adorning porches and trees,
an amber glow flooding the windows from inside.
We'd walk and stop as he pointed out stars,
or smiled at a lopsided Snowman springing
from Snow.
Just the two of us, roaming beneath this glittering
dome of Sky,
his blue sea glass eyes crinkling into a grin,
as he answered my questions about when he
was small,
whether his father took him out every Christmas Eve
to admire the lights.
For a moment, the blueness in his eyes would fade,
before they lit up again,
pointing out a fleet of red-coloured reindeer pulling
a silver sleigh across somebody's front yard,

or the brick house that crouched at the end of
the road,
its windows flickering gold, gleaming like the stars
above us.
Sometimes, he'd hoist me onto his shoulders,
so I could reach up and try to pluck one down
from Sky,
as we wove our way back through the empty streets,
to the white bungalow bathed in blue,
my Heart bursting with a secret joy that only my
Dad knew, all those Christmas Eves ago.
He still walks with me as I leave the shrine of pines,

and meander my way down the hilltop road,
far from the white bungalow, the lights of the village
twinkling below,
where I pause in front of houses I don't know,
to admire the lights adorning their porches
and trees,
an amber glow flooding the windows from inside.
I peer up at the stars sprinkling Sky,
feeling small as the saplings that fringe the road,
wondering whether he sees too.

Sylvie Kalenda



Cup of Cheer

The Archie Stouffer Elementary School (ASES) junior/senior kindergarten class hold up their Christmas mugs for residents of Hyland Crest. ASES teacher, Bonnie Tokar's class includes Hazel Alder, from left, at back, Grace Thomas, Wren Colliss, Scarlett Smith, Charlie Swift, Lily Neville, Dean DaLanca, Nash Bain and Emmett Danilko. Steven Turcotte, from left, middle, seated, Cash Ouellette, Felix Roscoe, Jaxon Lalonde, Jase Cox and Nixon Smith. Kale McCallum, from left at front, seated, Clark Frybort, Nathan Demerchant, Kennedy Draker, Harlow Smith and Kimberley Marchand-Voicey. /Submitted by Bonnie Tokar.

• CELEBRATING DIVERSITY • 2022 PERFORMANCES •

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July 28th | 7:30pm | location TBD
RICHARD MARGISON MASTERCLASS #2
July 29th | 7:30pm | location TBD
RICHARD MARGISON MASTERCLASS #3
July 30th | 7:30pm | location TBD

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August 18th & 20th | 7:30pm | NLPAP, Haliburton
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August 25th, 27th, & 29th | 7:30pm
August 28th | 2:00pm
NLPAP, Haliburton
A masterpiece of 19th century Russian romanticism,
the beautiful music of 'Eugene Onegin' tells the story
of a selfish hero who lives to regret his nonchalant
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August 3rd | 7:30pm
St. George's Anglican Church, Haliburton
POP GOES THE OPERA!
August 6th | 7:30pm | location TBD
More opera and musical theatre favourites.
A NIGHT AT THE OPERETTA
August 9th | 7:30pm | location TBD
Merry Widow, Die Fledermaus, Gilbert & Sullivan!
Hear your favourites from the sparkling world of operetta!
CELEBRATING DIVERSITY
August 11th | 7:30pm
St. George's Anglican Church, Haliburton
Experience the beauty of vocal music composed by
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COMMUNITY PAY-WHAT-YOU-CAN EVENTS:
WHY CHOOSE OPERA?
August 1st | 7:30 pm | location TBD
Relaxed concert and conversation featuring varied music other
than opera.
MUSIC ON THE BAY
August 13th | 5:30pm | Fairfield Bay, Mountain Lake
Launch your boat on Mountain Lake, Minden Hills, and join
HOS performers in Fairfield Bay for a concert of opera, musical
theatre, and pop! (Weather permitting)
CASUAL SONG SOIRÉE
August 15th | 7:30pm | St. George's Anglican, Haliburton
Relaxed concert of all types of songs.

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Rural post offices are essential

Canadian post offices have long been recognized as important community hubs in a town. The postmaster knows your name, just like the bartender at Cheers. If the post office goes, the writing is on the wall. You're one step away from being a ghost town.

"Closing a rural post office has a destructive ripple effect on its community, including a loss of jobs, economic stability, and cohesive sense of identity; there is likewise more isolation, especially for seniors and those with limited mobility or no access to a vehicle. Rural residents must also incur the time and expense of travelling farther for basic services." ~ statement from Canadian Postmasters and Assistants Association CPAA

Here in the Highlands, as cases of Covid grew exponentially, our postal workers were suddenly faced with a burgeoning population. More people, ordering more goods online.

My post office is in West Guilford. It's a little window at the back of Bill's store. Chris Chumbley, the postmaster, has to squeeze into his cubby amid the products of online retailers from Toronto to Beijing.

A Canada Post notice beside the window says the office hours are 12:30 to 5 p.m. Apparently rural offices like West Guilford don't require a full time employee. But since Chris is also an employee of the store, and since the store owner is a nice guy, West Guilford residents can rely on postal service all day long. And that's a good thing, since the cardboard boxes at the West Guilford store sometimes spill out to the meat

counter and the aisle in front of the dairy fridge. I'm talking big, heavy parcels that look like they contain barbecues or TV's. And yes, I admit to being part of the problem. Ordering art supplies from the comfort of my couch is a bad habit. My resolution is to stop clicking the *shop now* button and try harder to shop local. But it's hard.

Things have changed since Chris's great grandmother, Shirley Sisson, was the West Guilford postmistress. She ran the office from her home beside St. Andrew's Church.

Shirley would have been proud to see how her great grandson has invented new strategies for survival in the Amazon jungle. The mail must go through, after all.

Today, there are still more than 3,000 rural post offices across Canada. But many of the workers are struggling with pandemic fatigue. They have difficulty booking appointments, sick days and holidays. Yes, they are among the essential frontline workers we take for granted. So, here's to all our K0M postal workers and deliverers this holiday season in Haliburton 1S0, West Guilford 2S0, Minden 2K0, Irondale 1X0, Gooderham 1R0, Algonquin Highlands 1J1/2, Kinmount 2A0, Carnarvon 1J0, and let's not forget Wilberforce K0L 3C0. My apologies to any and all other back road postal codes I may have missed.

Thank you for your service! We appreciate you.

Submitted by Janet Trull

Community Events

Send your event listing to Pat Lewis at classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

The Book Nook

Minden Hills Library is now open, indoors, to one patron at a time. When: 10 to 2 p.m. on the first and third Fridays of the month. Payment is by donation.

The Book Nook is run by volunteers from our Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library group. Your donations support the purchase of books, enhancements and programmes in all Haliburton County libraries.

Environment Haliburton Enviro-Cafe

The Enviro-Cafe featuring Korey McKay, the County's climate action coordinator has been postponed until Tuesday,

January 11 due to technical difficulties. We will post a new link to register for this event on our website 2 weeks previous. Happy holidays from EH!

Free Public Skating sponsored by Karen Nimigon

Where: A.J. Larue Arena
When: Dec. 31, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Jan 2, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Free Public Skating sponsored by Karen Nimigon

Where: S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena
When: Dec. 23, 2 to 4 p.m., Dec. 27, 6 to 8 p.m.



Legion Events

Branch 129 Haliburton

Tuesday night:

Dart League starting at 7 p.m.

Wednesdays:

Bingo doors open at 6 p.m. Bingo starts at 7 p.m. \$500 jackpot

Thursdays:

General Meeting third Thursday of the month, starting at 7 p.m. All members urged to attend. Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.

Fridays:

Meat draw five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw - 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$2 per draw. Don Pitman, MC
Friday fun darts - 4:30 p.m. onwards

Saturdays:

50/50 Draw 4 p.m. draw, Tickets are \$1 each from noon onwards

*Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, for more information call the Legion today at 705-457-2571, email rcl129@bellnet.ca or visit haliburtonlegion.com
Come on out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129 ... everyone is welcome!*

* New club room hours: Mon. 3 to 7 p.m., Tues. 3 to 9 p.m., Wed. to Fri. 3 to 7 p.m. and Sat. 2 to 8 p.m.

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In The Spirit Of Giving This Christmas

Thank you to everyone who entered the draw for Christmas Dinner. You helped us raise \$2,590 for the Haliburton Food Bank. We appreciate your support and generosity.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to All!

Haliburton Office: 191 Highland Street, Haliburton
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 Kennisis Office: 4502 Kennisis Lake Road, Haliburton



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Red Wolves invite athletes, volunteers to its pack

SUE TIFFIN

County Life Staff

Dave McKay first became a volunteer when his kids were involved in sports, but he became involved because of volunteers helping him when he was a child himself.

"I got into it mostly because of people who volunteered when I was a kid, or when I was younger, anyway," McKay said. "Our coach on the baseball team was our bus driver. He didn't have any kids of his own but he came out and coached us. Some of the adults around town who played ball would come out and give us some advice, and give us a hand. I kind of remembered that when I was an adult and had kids of my own and felt I could do the same sort of thing."

He's been volunteering for about 50 years now, currently about 10 to 15 hours a week. At least one hour of the week, from October to the end of March, is spent with the Haliburton County Red Wolves curling team.

Having been active his entire life, McKay joined the curling club in Minden after moving here, and in 1997, began volunteering as a coach with the curling program for public school kids. While he was curling, he met members of the Haliburton County Red Wolves team, Haliburton County's Special Olympics athletes, and when Coach Bruce Fisher needed someone to stand in for him in 2012, McKay jumped at the chance.



Yvette Brauer and Barb Piercey have been longtime volunteers with the Red Wolves and recently received their 15-year pins. The Haliburton County Red Wolves are looking for more athletes and volunteers to join their team. /Photo submitted

"I started out helping him, and a year or so later, he was helping me, and that's really how I got introduced to the curling program with the Red Wolves," McKay said.

Four years ago the Red Wolves curling team won the B-provincial championships.

"The Red Wolves themselves really enjoy coming out and doing whatever it is they're doing, some of them curl quite

well, some of them enjoy being out with the other athletes."

Yvette Brauer, who has been a volunteer with the Red Wolves for 15 years and whose son Trevor is an athlete, said the team is looking for both volunteers and athletes after two challenging years. At first, with the strict pandemic protocols put in place by the Special Olympics Ontario organization, athletes suffered greatly from isolation, made more diffi-

cult by the remote area and poor internet access of the Highlands.

"Friendships are so important," Brauer said. "And we're a family."

The Haliburton County team did give bocce ball a try in the summer, given that social distancing protocols could be easily maintained outdoors, but golfing was only permitted this past September, and with regular competitions cancelled, the five-pin bowling team has been participating in a virtual competition rather than being able to enjoy the sport in the same way. Not all athletes have returned yet, with the pandemic ongoing, and fundraising opportunities have not been available. The full team has dropped from 35 to about 18 athletes and Brauer is hoping that everyone will return and that others might join, including seasonal residents who might not know of the local team.

"We just want to give everyone an opportunity," Brauer said. "And if they don't know we're here, they can't join."

For McKay, the experience is personally rewarding, but knowing that he's helping support inclusion in the community is important to him.

"It's a fulfilling thing," he said. "The Red Wolves really enjoy coming out and doing things, so if you can help them in that area I think it's a good thing."

For those interested in playing, coaching, or cheering on curling, five-pin bowling, softball, golf or bocce ball visit haliburton.specialolympicsontario.ca or contact Yvette at ybrauer@bell.net.

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Sue Tiffin

David Zilstra



Record temperatures set on Dec. 11

SUE TIFFIN

County Life Staff

Peter Kimbell, warning preparedness meteorologist at Environment Canada said the numbers recorded at observation sites used in the Haliburton County area are not representative of the peak winds we actually had on Dec. 11. Checking nearby observation sites in Algonquin Park, in Bancroft, and in Beatrice, Kimbell said the highest wind recorded was 65 kilometres per hour.

"So that's not generally going to knock out power," he said. "There were higher gusts, but we don't have any observations to document that."

He noted that forested area near the towers would dampen wind substantially.

"I do know that in every case when we have strong winds, those sites in particular never really show them. Although they are there, and the fact that you have power outages prove that point."

Peak winds across the province were recorded in Point Petrie and Port Colborne at 130 kilometres per hour, at 115 kilometres per hour at Windsor airport and at Kingston airport at 108 kilometres per hour.

"They're not likely going to be that high up in your neck of the woods, because typically those higher winds are reported basically off of the lake where there's very little friction," Kimbell said. "With maximum exposure to the lake, given that there's no friction [trees, buildings, etc.] over the lake, or very lit-

tle friction, the winds are always higher there. Waves do cause a bit of friction, but there's much less friction over the lake than the land, and consequently the winds reported are always less over land."

Kimbell said Environment Canada's wind warning threshold is 70 kilometres per hour, or gusts to 90 kilometres per hour.

"Our warning thresholds are designed to kind of capture some of the impacts, so we expect that we would start to see impacts when we see winds sustained at kilometres per hour, or gusts to 90," he said. "Our observation sites didn't show that, but I just know that they often underreport what is actually happening."

While we've seen winds like this before, Kimbell said what is unusual is the fact that it was so warm, for December. In Bancroft, the temperature reached 12.2 Celsius degrees on Dec. 11. Bancroft's period of record goes back to 1882, and the previous record for temperature on Dec. 11 in 1897 was 11.1 Celsius degrees. Algonquin Park reached 11.5 Celsius degrees this past Dec. 11, which beat the record of 8.9 set on the same day in 1949. The highest December temperature recorded at a volunteer station in Haliburton was 14.5 Celsius degrees set on Dec. 5 in 2001.

"Warm weather on Dec. 11 has definitely happened before, but this would be the warmest Dec. 11," Kimbell said. "Consequently, this kind of storm, anomalously warm temperatures often go together with storms in winter time.

In winter time, if you're going to get anomalously warm temperatures, it's almost always because there's a storm funnelling that warm air up northward.

Consequently if there's a storm there's going to be wind. They all go together. Is it unprecedented? Well, it's certainly very unusual, let's put it that way."



Bucking the trend

Marvin Varty captured this young guy in his front yard located outside of Haliburton. He said it's unusual to see a buck this close.



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Local Landmark Mystery

Forest find

The following are images of a local landmark. Try to guess what the landmark is and see in the next week's County Life for the reveal. Concept and images from Thom Lambert, who has informative posts about things to see and do in the Highlands through Myhaliburtonhighlands on Instagram. /Submitted by Thom Lambert



The reveal of this week's Land Mark Mystery is Maple in the Park. It's found at the Lochlin Community Centre in the Municipality of Minden Hills. An homage to the time-honoured tradition of maple syrup production, this soaring, rusted steel sculpture is tucked in between spruce trees and rewards anyone that stops to take a few minutes to investigate. Created by David Hollows, Maple in the Park is part of the Visual Arts Committee project to put an outdoor art piece in every community in the Haliburton Highlands. It is a great stop on a socially distanced walk or bicycle ride on the Haliburton County Rail Trail. By bike, it is only a few minutes from Ritchie Falls. Republished with permission from Thom Lambert, @myhaliburtonhighlands



Holiday Recycling

Recycling for Containers

Rinse all containers and ensure they are clean of liquids or food

Aluminum foil and trays

Metal food cans

Plastic bottles (caps can be left on)

Plastic tubs, containers

Recycling for Containers

Paper gift wrap

Paper gift tags

Paper gift bags (remove string)

Christmas cards & envelopes

Cardboard rolls

Cardboard boxes (flatten)

Garbage

Metallic or foil wrapping paper

Ribbons, bows, tape

Styrofoam shipping block

Bubble wrap

Broken ornaments

Plastic toy packaging (hard-to-cut material)

Dysart Landfill Holiday Hours

Friday, December 24, 2021 (Christmas Eve)
8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: Haliburton Landfill, West Guilford Landfill

Saturday, December 25, 2021 (Christmas Day)
All landfills closed

Sunday, December 26, 2021 (Boxing Day)
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.: Haliburton Landfill, Kennisis Lake Landfill, West Bay Landfill, West Guilford Landfill
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21st SECTION
Tuesday, December 20, 1993



**CHRISTMAS
MAGIC**

Santa's Magic Christmas Tree
Matthew Cornthwaite
3C JDHES

Once a upon a time there was a magic Christmas tree. Santa was the only person who had it. The lights went off and on it. The tree even made presents! But he was deciding to give it away. He wanted to give it to some poor children he knew in a run-down house, but then that wouldn't be fair! He was wondering what to do. Maybe he could share it with everyone, but how? Maybe Santa should put it in the town square. That's what he did! Everyone got presents because everytime Santa walked by, it would make presents!

The Best Gift
Haley Emmerson
3C JDHES

Once there was a little girl named Betsy. She was poor. She had no family. He dad died and her mom got remarried and it was almost Christmas (in a couple of months.) She thought for a while. Now I know what I'll do for Christmas. I'll decorate my pets. So Betsy figured out a way to do it. She was lonely and wanted to have a family. Finally the day came when Christmas was just around the corner. Betsy wished every night. She wished, "Oh, if I could only have a family!" She wanted something else as well - a small teddy bear. The next day was Christmas and she got that special thing - a cuddly brown teddy bear. A family across the street called and said they wanted to adopt her. She was very happy!

Dear Santa...
Nikki Scott
3C JDHES

Dear Santa:
I like the gifts I get from you. My mom said if I ever see you putting presents under the Christmas tree to wake her up. Why has no one ever seen you before? Instead, they see your helpers dressed like you! Santa, can I ask you a favour? Make sure that everyone gets a present in Canada? Please write back.

Christmas Is...
Ben Neve
3C JDHES

Christmas is...
Sitting by the fire,
Sipping cocoa,
Eating chestnuts,
The sound of laughter,
Threading garlands...
My favourite part is Christmas Dinner.



Haliburton students put some action into their sweet rendition of Away in the Manger

Christmas Is...
Trevor R. Ottley
3C JDHES

Christmas is a time of joyful spirit. It is also a time of tearing up presents and making children happy. It's a time of sweet tarts being baked in the oven, and a time of Santa's reindeers' hooves prancing on the rooftops. That is what Christmas is to me.

Everywhere it is Christmas Tonight!
Jason Chambers
3C JDHES

Everywhere it is Christmas tonight!
Santa will surely have a fight
With all the snow and ice around,
His poor reindeer will not be found!
Please clear up for Santa's trip!

Christmas - Then and Now
Reinhold Lowenberger
3C JDHES

One hundred years ago pioneers used to make their own gifts. Now we buy our gifts. They used to make their own decorations and tree ornaments. Now we buy these, too. They used to have only one blacksmith for ten or twelve towns. Now we buy metal products from stores and they are made in factories. They also made their own candles and dresses. Now we buy them. They used to make gingerbreadmen for decorations. Today we sometimes make them, too.



Victoria Street students turn into little angels at Friday's concert at Haliburton United Church

The Best Gifts of All
Scott Smith
3B JDHES

The best gifts of all were when I received a G.T. and a new snow suit when I was 9 years old. They were the best presents in my life! The G.T. was black, white and gray. My snow suit was green and my pants were black. I'll never forget them!

One day, it snowed so much
Lindsay Mitchell
3B JDHES

Once I was playing outside, on Christmas Day, and it started to snow. It snowed so much it covered the house. So I climbed up the chimney. I slid down the roof. I took my sled and slid down the roof again and again until it melted down again. I played in the snow until it was time for dinner. After dinner I went back out. When my mom called me I said, "In a minute, mom!" So I went in and went to bed and had a wonderful dream about snow.
The End.



Students squeal with delight when Santa visits Victoria Street carol sing

The Magic Christmas Tree
Billie-Jo Stamp
3B JDHES

Once I saw a smiling Christmas tree. It said "Howdy" to me. I said "Hi!" He didn't move. I said, "Hi!" again. He still didn't move, so I walked away. It followed me to bed. I got into bed. I woke up in the morning and the tree said "Hello!" I said "Hello!" back. We were friends. The End.

The Magic Christmas Tree
Kyle Boughner
3B JDHES

One snowy day my mom and dad took me to get a Christmas tree. I saw a nice Christmas tree. I said, "I want this one." Then they said, "O.K." I was so happy that the whole town heard me say YIPPEEY! So my dad went home and got the chain saw and came back and cut it down. When we got back to my house it was time for bed. Then I wished that the tree was magic. The next morning in Christmas. Before I got out of my bed I wished that I received all of the presents I wanted. Then I jumped out of bed and ran and looked at the Christmas tree. There right under it were all of the things I had wished for. Then I yelled "Mom, dad get up!" They got up and said "What do you want?" I said "This is a magic Christmas tree! Last night I wished for a magic Christmas tree and my wish came true!"

Christmas
Drawings by
Veronica Ablett
Wilberforce School
Grade 3



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TWELVE MILE LAKE ROAD \$1,995,000



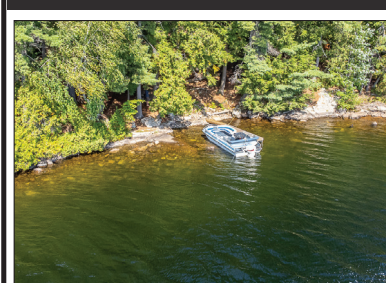
A RARE FIND! 1677 feet of frontage and 6+ acres fronting on both beautiful Twelve Mile Lake and Little Boshkung Lake. This point lot is totally private and takes in multiple exposures and has stunning lake views. The historic "Strathcona Lodge" was located here. The original foundation is still present and has the potential to be built on. Two small historic cabins are also on the subject property. Don't miss this opportunity to build your dream home or getaway on one of the most peaceful settings in Haliburton County. Price is plus HST

MOUNTAIN STREET \$539,000



Fantastic home, situated on a year-round road in a lovely private neighbourhood. This lovingly owned and maintained home features 3 bedrooms and full bathroom on the main level. Enjoy tons of natural lighting in the bright, spacious living room, dining area and kitchen. Step out to the sunroom and feel immersed in nature - overlooking the beautiful flowing creek and forest. Finished lower level with den/bedroom, renovated 3pc bathroom, and large rec room. Great sized lot and large double carport. This family home offers endless possibilities.

KAWAGAMA LAKE \$279,000



Stunning south views across the lake. This property has a fantastic shoreline of mixed sand/gravel gradual entry to the water. Hydro is at the lot line and there is good cell service. This is easily accessible from either marina on the lake. Enjoy this affordable lot in the summer while you make your plans for your new cottage. Great fishing year-round and fantastic snowmobiling in the winter.

STILLS ROAD \$128,500



This beautiful 1.2-acre building lot is located in the heart of Eagle Lake. Driveway installed and building site is cleared and ready for your year-round home or getaway. Many apple trees throughout the property. Stunning park-like setting. Surrounded by mature trees in a quiet neighbourhood. Paved year-round municipal road. Walking distance to Eagle Lake Country market, Eagle Lake public beach and boat launch. Stop dreaming and start building your dream home or cottage.

WENONA LAKE \$94,500



Fantastic lot in a quiet area. This 0.42-acre lot is the perfect spot to build your families dream cottage or home. Conveniently located on a year-round road with hydro and telephone available and located 15 minutes from Haliburton village. Surrounded by mature trees providing ample privacy. 1/12 interest (ownership) in waterfront lot 62 which has a beautiful sand shoreline and western exposure overlooking Wenona Lake. Adjacent lot is owned by the municipality adding additional privacy.

CHELSEA LANE \$69,900



This pretty 1.52-acre lot is in the vicinity of the 3 lake chain- Green-Maple-Beech. Deeded access to Maple Lake within walking distance. Situated just outside West Guilford, between Carnarvon and Haliburton with easy seasonal access off HWY 118. The lot is fairly level with a slight elevation to a great spot to build your retreat. Surrounded by mature trees in a quiet area. Ample privacy and lots of space for the family to enjoy the outdoors.

Seasons Greetings from BAUMGARTNER REALTY GROUP.

To all of our Clients, Colleagues, Friends and Families
We wish you the very best as 2021 comes to an end,
and look forward to more health and prosperity in the
New Year!

Linda, Nicole, Karen, Rosemarie, Nicole, Connie & Kim